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Senate Inquiry on Foreign Policy Impact of CIA Up for Study Today

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WASHINGTON — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee may decide today whether to investigate the Central Intelligence Agency, Chairman J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) said Monday.

"It has been put on the agenda for Tuesday's meeting and we're going to take it up," Fulbright said. "There may be a decision."

Fulbright commented after Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy (D-Minn.), a committee member, placed before the Senate a resolution calling for an investigation by the Foreign Relations Committee of the CIA's impact on foreign policy.

A resolution seeking the establishment of a joint House-Senate committee on the CIA was introduced by

Sen. Stephen Young (D-Ohio).

The committee meeting today will be behind closed doors. The investigation was first discussed at a closed-door meeting of the committee two weeks ago.

Other than observing that "there is a good deal of opposition" to the proposed inquiry, Fulbright declined to speculate on how the committee might vote.

Nor would he state his own position. "I don't think I'm ready to give my views," he said.

Presidents have steadfastly resisted efforts to change the system of congressional overseeing of the CIA. That is now done by CIA subcommittees of the Appropriations and Armed Services committees in the House and Senate.

Critics of the system say it is cursory and far too informal for an agency as vital as the CIA.

McCarthy's resolution calls for the committee to report on its investigation by Jan. 31, 1967.

"Serious questions about the relationship of the agency to the process of making and directing foreign policy have been raised by the role of the CIA in the Dominican Republic and in Vietnam," McCarthy said in introducing the resolution.

"The foreign policy implications of the activities of the CIA are becoming increasingly important.

"I believe there is significant evidence that the CIA not only carries out policy, but in some respects it has become a positive . . . influence on the policy itself."